

REMARKS

In view of the new rejection and the detailed comments of the Examiner respecting claims 17 to 39, Applicant has gone back and carefully reviewed the claims for purposes of instruction, and has prepared a new set of claims that clearly and particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

The rejection applied in the Office Action mailed December 13, 2004, has been very helpful in aiding Applicant in formulating new claims 40 to 58. Specifically, the rejection under section 102(b) for anticipation by Hilton et al, US Patent No. 5,452,416, has made the Applicant consider the expression of the invention in greater depth. Hilton et al shows the general state of the art before the advent of the present invention. The basic ideas shown in Hilton et al consist of storing a multiplicity of medical case as shown in Fig. 2. These cases can be presented to a doctor either as a display of all images in a series of images for a medical case in separate presentation areas on a screen, Fig. 3, or in a series mode, Fig. 4, in which corresponding images of one series are correlated with the corresponding images of another series and shown in separate presentation areas so the image of one series can be compared with the corresponding image of another series. In both cases, the images presented, are the basic stored images of a series of images. There are various icons provided and the screener has the option of pointing and clicking to his heart's content, while screening the images. The significant point to bear in mind is that whatever the screener wishes to do, as a minimum, it is necessary for the screener to point and click to do it, particularly, if the screener wishes to change the image in any respect, e.g., enlarge.

The publication of Office 2000, also cited, is used to frame a rejection of the claims under section 103(a) in view of Hilton et al. This reference simply shows the standard storing of slides and their retrieval in any order. Also, the slides can be dragged and dropped, as is well known in the art. Both references show a workflow that can be used to present the stored images in any order desired, but this is well known in the art. Also, the stepping from one presentation or slide to another by a mouse click is

also well known in the art. So what is new in the present invention that is unobvious that lends patentability to the new claims being presented herewith?

The answer to the above question is as follows. What is new is the discovery that in order for the screener to be able to move very quickly through the medical cases to be screened, the screener has to be able to see only those images that will enable him either to make a diagnosis immediately or be able to flag cases that require further study. The present invention is to enable a screener to move through hundreds of cases quickly to accomplish the above. The screener doesn't have the luxury of spending more than a brief amount of time on each medical case; nor of looking at all the medical images that have been recorded and stored for any particular case. So according to the invention, only certain selected images of whole series of images for a medical case are screened in a particular order and according to a preselected processing, and most significant, the movement from one selected image with a selected processing to the next is accomplished by a single input action.

The foregoing is set forth in new claims 40 to 58, directed to the method and apparatus, respectively, of the present invention below; the portions which reflect the novelty of the method and apparatus, and which are not shown by the prior art of record including Hilton et al and the Office 2000 publication are underlined for emphasis.

Claim 40 (new): A method for screening medical cases comprising the steps of:

- a.) storing a multiplicity of medical cases each of which contain a group of images of a particular portion of a patient's anatomy, the views of the images of all groups for all medical cases being the same;
- b.) establishing a preselected order of the medical cases;
- c.) providing a user interface with a set of icons each representing a specification (i) for a designation of a particular view of an image of the group of images and (ii) for the processing thereof;

- d.) establishing a common workflow containing a plurality of serially arranged data fields;
- e.) interrelating the common workflow with the medical cases to screen orderly one by one;
- f.) preprogramming a sub-set of the set of icons into a preselected order corresponding to the serially arranged data fields of the common workflow by the user selecting the sub-set of icons and the order;
- g.) loading the specifications represented by the ordered sub-set of icons of the set of icons into the corresponding data fields of the common workflow;
- h.) coupling the user interface to the common workflow whereby a user can control stepping through the serial data fields;
- i.) in response to a user stepping to a data field, retrieving from the store of medical cases the specified particular view of an image of the current medical case being screened, processing as specified by the data field, and storing in the data field of the common workflow;
- j.) whereby an ordered sequence of preselected specified images of each medical case can be viewed, one by one, as derived from the stored groups of images for all said medical cases;
- k.) displaying, for viewing by a user, each ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each said medical case, in order, one after the other; and
- l.) controlling the stepping through the serially arranged data fields to view the ordered sequence of said preselected specified images derived from the stored images of each medical case by a user initiating only a single action input to move the workflow from each current serial data field to the next successive serial data field.

Claim 47 (new): Apparatus for screening medical cases comprising:

- a) a store for storing a multiplicity of medical cases each of which contain a group of images of a particular portion of a patient's anatomy, the views of the images of all groups for all medical cases being the same;
- b) means for establishing a preselected order of the medical cases;
- c) a user interface with a set of icons each representing a specification (i) for a designation of a particular view of an image of the group of images and (ii) for the processing thereof;
- d) a common workflow containing a plurality of serially arranged data fields;
- e) means for interrelating the common workflow with the medical cases to screen orderly one by one;
- f) means for enabling a user to preprogram a sub-set of the set of icons into a preselected order corresponding to the serially arranged data fields of the common workflow by the user selecting the sub-set of icons and the order;
- g) means for loading the specifications represented by the ordered sub-set of icons of the set of icons into the corresponding data fields of the common workflow;
- h) the user interface being coupled to the common workflow to enable a user to control stepping through the serial data fields one after the other;

- i) means, in response to the user actuating a single action input for stepping from a data field to the next successive data field, for retrieving from the store of medical cases, for each serial data field, the specified particular view of an image of the current medical case being screened, for processing as specified by the data field, and for storing in the next successive data field of the common workflow;
- j) whereby an ordered sequence of preselected specified images of each medical case can be viewed, one by one, as derived from the stored groups of images for all said medical cases; and
- k) a display for displaying, for viewing by a user, each ordered sequence of said preselected specifications of each said medical case, in order, one after the other.

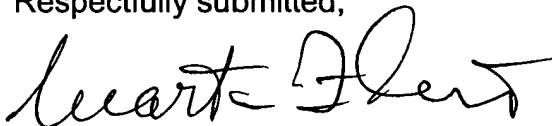
One of the key aspects of the present invention is the fact that the icons each represent a specification (i) for a designation of a particular view of an image of the group of images and (ii) for the processing thereof. This specification is what is loaded into the data fields of the workflow, and what enables the single action input. In effect, the data fields are preprogrammed with not only the sequence of the specified images (less than the total number of images) but also the processing of any specified image. The preselected images are only those necessary for the screener to rapidly screen all the multiplicity of medical cases to determine if a problem, or likely problem exist, whereupon a more thorough analysis of each identified medical case can take place later on. The particular aspect of the present invention is novel, and completely unobvious over the prior art of record. None of prior art show or even hint that a preloaded processing of a specified image occurs automatically upon retrieval. This is what enables the screener to move rapidly through a multiplicity of cases in the shortest possible time. Accordingly the process and apparatus claims, all of

which contain this aspect, recited in the appropriate form for the statutory class of invention, are patentable. The claims dependent on claims 40 and 47 all include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, and therefore, are patentable for the reasons given above.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If any questions remain regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time, time sufficient, to effect a timely response, and shortages in this or other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Deposit Account of the undersigned, Account No. 500601 (Docket no. 739-X01-003)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Fleit', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Fleit, Reg. #16,900

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